



## **Ruth Welch**

### **BLM Colorado State Director**

Ruth Welch began her Federal career with the Office of Surface Mining in 1989 and joined the BLM in 1993. Since then, she has served in a variety of positions throughout the Bureau. As a management analyst with the Office of Information Resource Management (IRM)/Modernization and as the special assistant to the first BLM Chief Information Officer, she helped design the Bureau's IRM organizations to meet the changing technology needs during the late 1990s. She moved to the field in 2001 as an Assistant Field Manager for the Milwaukee Field Office and then to the Eastern States Office as the Deputy State Director for Business Services. In 2006, she transferred to the Washington Office as the Division Chief for Business Resources, managing Bureauwide programs for engineering, property, contracting, and grants/agreements, as well as providing human resources, IRM, and business services support to the Washington Office. From 2009 to 2012, she held the position of Associate State Director for Wyoming and Nebraska. During that time, she co-led the Secretary's wild horse and burro initiative and acted as the State Director for Eastern States. Ruth served as the Director of the BLM's National Operations Center from April 2012 to February 2014, when she began acting as BLM Colorado's State Director. She was officially sworn in as the State Director in June 2014.

Ruth graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and English literature in 1986 from Western State College in Gunnison, CO. She earned a Master of Public Administration at the University of Colorado at Denver in 2000. Ruth and her husband Mark are Colorado natives who enjoy cycling, hiking, skiing, and other outdoor activities. They have two grown children and six grandchildren.